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DOMESTIC MIGRATORY FARMWORKERS PERSONAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS.

BY- RAPTON, AVRA AND OTHERS
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

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WORK EXPERIENCE, PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS, TRENDS, AND CONTRASTS OF MIGRATORY FARMWORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE PRESENTED FOR THE YEARS 1962 THROUGH 1966, WITH EMPHASIS ON 1965. SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF AGE, SEX, CHIEF ACTIVITY DURING YEAR, HOUSEHOLD RELATIONSHIP, SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD, COLOR, FARM AND NONFARM RESIDENCE, TENURE, AND EDUCATION ARE DISCUSSED. THE CONDITIONS OF MIGRATORY WORK INCLUDE MIGRATORY WORK ROUTES AND AREA OF RESIDENCE, INTERSTATE AND INTRASTATE MIGRATION, FARMWORK DONE IN HOME BASE COUNTY, LONGEST DISTANCE TRAVELED, DREW MEMBERSHIP, NUMBER OF FARM EMPLOYERS DURING YEAR, RETURN TO HOME BASE COUNTY BY DECEMBER, CHILDREN UNDER 14 IN HOUSEHOLDS HEADED BY MIGRATORY WORKERS, NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED, AND FAMILY INCOME. EXPLANATORY NOTES ARE GIVEN EXPLAINING WORKING FORCE, POPULATION COVERAGE, DEFINITIONS, AND RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES. TWENTY-TWO TABLES AND 16 LITERATURE CITATIONS ARE INCLUDED. (JH)

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Domestic Migratory Farmworkers

PERSONAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

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HIGHLIGHTS

The work experience and personal characteristics of migratory workers are similar in many respects to those of most other paid farmworkers. Essentially a young labor force, half of the migratory workers are less than 25 years old. About 70 percent are male, and 80 percent are white. Similar characteristics prevail among nonmigrants.

Migratory workers, like the nonmigrants, have a relatively loose attachment to the labor force. Approximately half are keeping house or attending school, or in other ways are out of the labor force most of the year; farmwork for this group of migrant farmworkers represents a small fraction of their year's activity. Those workers who are household heads, a majority of whom are employed most of the year, accounted for only four-tenths of all migratory workers; migrant workers whose chief activity during the year is hired farmwork comprised three-tenths of the migratory work force.

Adult farmworkers have little schooling, 8.5 years on the average for the migrants, which ranks them below workers in every other major occupation group except farmers and private household workers. Migratory workers with some high school education are more likely to have had some nonfarm employment, where wage rates are higher, along with their farmwork.

The practice of leaving their home counties to work in areas outside of daily commuting distance is the chief characteristic distinguishing migratory from other farm workers. Although the major streams of migratory workers flow northward from Florida, Texas, and California, the home bases of persons who follow these routes are scattered geographically through the country. Four-tenths of the workers live in the southern, three-tenths in the western, and three-tenths in the northern regions of the United States. Many must, therefore, travel to reach the work area when the agricultural season begins.

In 1964, distances traveled were sometimes considerable--1,000 miles or more for one-fifth of the migrants--but more frequently migratory workers traveled less than 75 miles from the home base. For one-third of the migrants, travel to farmwork areas required crossing State lines; the remaining two-thirds crossed county lines but remained within their own State.

Although they left their home areas, three-fifths of the migrants had only one farm employer during the year. Those with more than one farm employer had a relatively long work year compared with other migrants.

On the average, migrants who did no farmwork in their local area had a relatively short farmwork season. This group included a large proportion of persons who did nonfarm work for a major part of the year. Migrants who combined local farmwork with farmwork outside the home area were more likely to be doing farmwork rather than nonfarm work when employed.

By the end of the year, more than four-fifths of the migrants had returned to their home base county. The others were presumably still working on the migratory route or temporarily settled in some other area while awaiting the start of the next agricultural season.

One-third of the migrants worked as members of farmworker crews. Farm earnings per day and for the year were higher for crew members than for migrants who traveled and found work independently. The higher earnings of crew members lend validity to the contention that many crew leaders become skilled in bargaining with growers.

About 80 percent of the migratory household heads reported that no children under 14 years of age accompanied them during migrancy. The remaining 20 percent reported 140,000 children under 14 years of age traveled with them on the migratory route. About 50,000 of these children were on the road at some time between October and May when most other children their age were at a permanent residence and in school.

The seasonality of farmwork seriously affects the extent of migratory employment. The average migratory worker was employed for only 82 days at farmwork in 1965, a work season of approximately 4 months duration, about the same duration as the work season of the average nonmigrant. Almost half the migratory workers also held nonfarm jobs at some time during the year, for an average of 158 days (about 7½ months) of total paid employment. The migrant who did only farmwork, reported 104 work days (about 5 months).

The average farm wage rate paid migrants in 1965 was $9.70 per day. The combination of a short workyear and low wages resulted in low annual earnings. Migrants employed exclusively at farmwork earned about $1,000 during the year. Those who also worked outside of agriculture earned $1,700, $500 from farmwork and $1,200 from nonfarm jobs.

The nonfarm work of almost three-fifths of the migratory workers who did both farm and nonfarm work, was in unskilled and semiskilled blue-collar jobs. One-fourth did service work and about one-tenth did clerical or other white-collar work.

Poverty, as reflected by family income, is widespread among the nation's hired farmworkers, both migratory and nonmigratory. Approximately half the migratory workers lived in families whose incomes fell below $3,000 in 1965. Working household heads and wives of heads were in the weakest finanical situation of all groups of migratory workers. Households of migratory heads averaged 4 persons with $2,700 in family income. In contrast, children 14 to 17 years of age who did migratory farmwork often lived in families whose income was relatively high among migratory workers; this suggests that many of the teenage workers were from families whose head is not a migratory worker.

DOMESTIC MIGRATORY FARMWORKERS

Personal and Economic Characteristics

By

Avra Rapton
Economic Development Division
Economic Research Service

INTRODUCTION

Migratory farmworkers are persons who leave their home counties temporarily to do farmwork beyond commuting distance from their usual place of residence. Migratory workers may travel alone, accompanied by members of their families, who often assist with the farmwork, or in crews. 1/

For the most part, migratory farmworkers are employed for harvest operations, but they also do preharvest work, such as thinning and weeding. Most migratory labor is used in agricultural areas requiring large numbers of hired workers for brief periods when the local supply of labor is not sufficient to meet peak seasonal demands. Fruits, vegetables, cotton, and sugarbeets are the principal crops for which migratory farm labor is employed.

In addition to the attention paid them because of their crucial role in the harvest of highly perishable agricultural commodities, migratory workers have gained national attention because of the concern expressed regarding their exceptionally low living standards.

Employment trends

Of the 3.1 million persons who during 1965 did farmwork for wages at any time, 466,000, or 15 percent, left their home county to do such work. These migratory workers were a small proportion of the total farm wage force in the United States, but they were a large proportion of the hired farmworkers employed on labor-intensive crops in areas where local labor was not available in the quantity demanded.

During the years since the end of World War II, the number of domestic migratory workers has remained relatively stable, fluctuating around 400,000 (table 1). The number of all domestic hired farmworkers during the postwar period has also been relatively stable.

1/ For further information on what constitutes migratory status, see Explanatory Note, p. 24.

Table 1.--Farm wage work: Number of persons employed for any period during specific years, by migratory status and national origin, selected years, 1949-65

Year	Domestic 1/			Foreign 2/
	Total	Migratory	Nonmigratory	
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.
1965	3,128	466	2,662	36
1964	3,370	386	2,984	200
1963	3,597	386	3,212	209
1962	3,622	380	3,242	217
1961	3,488	395	3,094	310
1960	3,693	409	3,284	335
1959	3,577	477	3,100	455
1957	3,962	427	3,535	452
1956	3,575	427	3,149	460
1954	3,009	365	2,644	321
1952	2,980	352	2,628	210
1949	4,140	422	3,718	113

1/ Data from the Hired Farm Working Force survey relating to persons residing in the United States at the time of the survey. Since the survey is conducted in the winter season, when almost all foreign agricultural workers have returned to their own country, this series primarily represents domestic workers. These data and those described in footnote 2 are from separate series and are not additive.

2/ Total number of foreign workers admitted to the United States each year for temporary employment in agriculture. Source: Farm Labor Developments. U.S. Department of Labor, March 1966.

Numbers for subgroups are rounded without being adjusted to group totals.

Fluctuations have occurred, instead, in the number of foreign workers who entered the United States each year to do migratory farmwork. The number of these workers rose from around 50,000 a year in the second half of the 1940's to a high of around 450,000 a year in the second half of the 1950's, then declined to around 200,000 a year during 1962-64, the last 3 years of the bracero program.

December 1964 witnessed the expiration of Public Law 78, the legislation authorizing the bracero program, which had permitted large-scale importation of Mexican workers for temporary employment on American farms. The ending of this program provided increased opportunity for employment

to domestic migratory workers, and between 1964 and 1965 a small rise occurred in the proportion of farmworkers employed as migrants (from 11 to 15 percent of all domestic farm wage workers). 2/

The 1965 rise probably represents no more than a temporary adjustment to the termination of P. L. 78. Continuing advances in the mechanization of hand labor activities for some vegetable and fruit crops and the cotton crop, which formerly employed large numbers of migratory workers, will tend to depress the overall demand for farm labor. 3/

Basis of report

The Bureau of the Census, through a continuing program known as the Current Population Survey, surveys a sample of the population monthly. Once a year, generally in December, the Economic Research Service contracts for special questions to be added to the survey for persons who have done hired farmwork at any time during the year. The basic data on employment and earnings obtained from this survey are published by the Economic Research Service in the report on the Hired Farm Working Force (1).

Data utilized in this report were obtained from the Current Population Survey of December 1965, supplemented by data from the December 1964 survey and other sources. Since only a few foreign workers were admitted for temporary farm jobs in 1965, and since in all years most foreign migratory workers had completed their farm wage work in the United States and returned to their own country by December, the data apply to domestic workers almost exclusively. 4/

2/ U. S. Department of Labor data for the same period reflect an increase in total seasonal hired farm labor, with much of the rise occurring in the States and on the crops at which large numbers of foreign workers had previously been employed (9). Underscored numbers in parentheses refer to Literature cited, p. 32.

3/ U. S. Department of Labor data for 1966 indicate that there was a slight decline between 1965 and 1966 in the number of domestic migratory farmworkers (11).

4/ In 1964, there were no foreign migratory workers in the sample.

Age and sex

Migratory workers differ little in age and sex from other hired farmworkers. They are a young working force; in 1965, half were under 25 years of age (table 2). A fourth were teenagers 14 through 17 years old. This is in contrast with the Nation's total work force, in which persons under 25 years of age accounted for only one-fifth and the 14- through 17-year group for a mere 5 percent of the total (7). Relatively few people past the age of 54 continue doing migratory farmwork. Persons in this age group accounted for only one-tenth of all migratory workers in 1965, while they comprised close to one-fifth of the total work force.

Table 2.--Age and sex: Number of migratory farm wage workers, 1965

Age	Total		Male		Female	
	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.
Total migratory workers	466	100	334	100	132	100
Under 25 years old----	244	53	186	56	58	44
14 to 17----------	119	26	94	28	25	19
18 to 24----------	125	27	92	28	33	25
25 years old and over-	221	47	148	44	74	56
25 to 54----------	172	37	111	33	62	47
55 and over-------	49	10	37	11	12	9

Numbers for subgroups are rounded without being adjusted to group totals.

The migratory farm wage force of 1965 was predominantly male in all age groups. Only three workers in 10 were female. Participation by women varied by age and was greatest for those between the ages of 25 to 54. Half of all female migratory workers were in this age group. Among workers aged 14 through 17, boys outnumbered girls four to one.

Chief activity during the year

Fully 55 percent of the people who did migratory farmwork at some time during 1965 were not working at any job most of the year. Their principal activity was either keeping house or attending school. Farmwork was done only occasionally.

About three migratory workers in 10 were employed at farm wage work most of the year. A relatively small proportion (16 percent) of all migratory workers were employed at nonfarm jobs most of the year.

Household relationship

A characteristic of migratory farmworkers is that they often travel as family groups with several members of a family working together in the fields. This section, however, describes the relationship of the migratory worker to the head of the household in which he was living at the time the survey was taken. It does not refer to the worker's relationship to persons he may have been living with while on the road, except for those few households which were interviewed while in migratory status.

Of the 466,000 persons who did migratory farmwork in 1965, about two-fifths were heads of household in December 1965 (table 3), and about a tenth were wives.

Table 3.--Household relationship: Number of farm wage workers, migratory status, 1965

Household relationship	Migratory		Nonmigratory	
	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers----------	466	100	2,662	100
Head of household---------	180	39	967	36
Wife of head----------	59	13	356	14
Other relative under 18---	112	24	803	30
Other member of household-	114	24	537	20

Numbers for subgroups are rounded without being adjusted to group totals.

Besides household heads and wives, migratory workers included persons under 18 years of age who were living with their families at the time of the survey. Some of these young persons may have traveled and worked alone during the year; others migrated and worked with their families. This group, mostly boys, comprised one-fourth of all migratory workers.

The remaining fourth of the migrant workers were adults living in households in which they were neither the head nor the wife of the head.

The incidence of wives, children, and household heads is about the same in the Nation's migratory work force as in the remainder of the hired farmwork force. The same holds true for the proportions principally engaged in hired farmwork or in nonfarm work, or who were out of the labor force most of the year. The migratory work force, like the rest of the hired farm working

force, consists largely of housewives, teenagers, and other persons whose attachment to the work force is part time.

Size of households headed by migratory workers

Household size was determined only for migratory workers who were heads of households. The data refer to all persons living in a household in December 1965 when the survey was taken. Since most of the migratory workers had returned to home base by December, the information on household size does not necessarily give the number of persons who traveled with the head during the year.

In the month of the survey, three-quarters of a million people were living in households headed by migratory workers, an average of four persons per household (table 4). Approximately 300,000 children under 14 years of age were included, an average of 1.7 children per household. Generally, Spanish-

Table 4.--Household size and children under 14 years of age: Number of farm wage workers who were heads of household, total number of persons and number of children per household, migratory status, 1965

Migratory status	Heads of household		Persons in household		Children under 14 in household	
	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Per hshd.	Thou.	Per hshd.
Total heads of household	1,147	100	4,588	4.0	2,265	2.0
Migratory	180	16	721	4.0	313	1.7
Nonmigratory	967	84	3,867	4.0	1,952	2.0

American migrants from the Southwest averaged larger families than Negro migrants who worked along the East Coast. Metzler reports an average household size of 6.5 persons for migratory households in southern Texas in 1957 and 2.8 persons for Negro migratory households in Florida in 1953 (13,14).

Color

The large number of Spanish-speaking Americans doing migratory farmwork in the central and western areas of the United States, together with the English-speaking white migrants from the South, make the migratory work force

predominantly white (table 5). 5/ The nonmigrant farmwork force is also predominantly white, but it contains a slightly larger proportion of nonwhites.

Table 5.--Color: Number of farm wage workers, migratory status, 1965

Color	Migratory		Nonmigratory	
	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	466	100	2,662	100
White	363	78	1,842	69
Nonwhite	103	22	820	31

Table 6.--Color and geographic area of residence: Number of migratory farm wage workers, 1965

Color by geographic area	Migratory workers	
	Thou.	Pct.
North	134	100
White	126	94
Nonwhite	8	6
South	183	100
White	113	60
Nonwhite	75	40
West	144	100
White	124	86
Nonwhite	20	14

Although three-fourths of the nonwhite migratory workers lived in the south in 1965, they comprised less than half of the migratory workers living in the South (table 6). Of the migrants whose permanent homes were elsewhere in the United States, only about 1 in 10 were nonwhite.

5/ In 1960, there were 261,000 Spanish-speaking persons among the Nation's farm wage workers, comprising 7 percent of the total farm wage force. Of the Spanish-Americans, the 103,000 who did migratory farmwork accounted for 25 percent of all migratory workers.

Farm or nonfarm residence and tenure

Unlike most farmworkers, who usually reside in the same home throughout the year, migratory farmworkers occupy a series of temporary living quarters as they travel to various work areas. Housing away from home is generally provided for them by the farm employer or by grower associations. A few migrants live in hotels, roominghouses, motels, or in trailers or tents which they bring along with them (12).

The information presented in this section refers to the migratory workers' housing and type of residence at the time the survey was taken, when all but one-sixth of the migratory workers had returned home. For most migrants, therefore, the data pertain to housing at the home base.

A much larger majority of the migratory farmworkers resided in nonfarm locations than did the nonmigrant farmworkers when they were not on the migratory routes. Only fourteen percent of the migrants were living on farms in December 1965, compared with 33 percent of the nonmigrants.

Another significant difference between migrants and nonmigrants was in their cash arrangements for rented living quarters. Only about one-tenth of the migratory workers were living in rent-free quarters in December 1965 compared with one-fourth of the nonmigrants (table 7). The migrant group probably consisted primarily of persons who were still doing farmwork away from home and were temporarily housed without charge by their employer. At the home base, the migratory workers were predominantly nonfarm residents paying cash rent or owning their housing quarters. Because of their migratory status, they were less able than the nonmigrants to obtain year-round, rent-free housing, as part payment for their labor, from a farm employer at the home base.

Another important difference between migrant and nonmigrant housing arrangements is that migratory workers were more likely to be living in transient accommodations, such as hotels, furnished rooms, or trailers. Approximately 10 percent of the migratory workers were living in transient quarters at the time of the survey. Most of these were probably still harvesting crops or doing other farmwork away from home. Virtually none of the nonmigrants lived in quarters other than a house or apartment.

There was little difference between migrants and nonmigrants in the extent of home ownership. About half of the workers in each group owned or were buying their houses or other living quarters.

Among migratory workers, ownership, as opposed to rental, was more prevalent among those whose family income was $3,000 or more during the year (table 8). Home ownership was also more prevalent among migratory workers who were out of the labor force most of the year. This group, including students doing summer vacation work, lived in higher income families who could better afford home ownership than full-time migratory workers whose low earnings and family income are a restraint on home ownership. Migratory workers living on

Table 7.--Tenure and type of living quarters: Number of farm wage workers, migratory status, 1965

Tenure by type of living quarters	Migratory		Nonmigratory	
	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	466	100	2,662	100
Owned or being bought	222	48	1,150	44
House, apartment	213	46	1,108	42
Hotel, motel, room	2	1/	---	---
Trailer, other	7	2	42	2
Rented	206	44	846	31
House, apartment	160	34	802	30
Hotel, motel, room	17	4	10	1/
Trailer, other	29	6	34	1
No cash rent	38	8	666	25
House, apartment	38	8	648	24
Hotel, motel, room	---	---	---	---
Trailer, other	---	---	18	1

1/ Less than 0.5 percent.

farms were far more likely than nonfarm residents to be housed in quarters where cash rent was not charged.

Education

The educational level of adult farm wage workers in 1965 continued to be among the lowest of all the major occupation groups. With an average of 8.4 years of school completed, the farm laborer's educational achievement was about the same as that of farm operators and private household workers. 6/ Persons in other major occupation groups averaged at least 1 additional year of school work, and the average for all workers was 12.2 years.

Migratory workers who were 25 years old and over in 1965 had approximately the same amount of schooling as other hired farm workers (table 9). About half of them had not attended school beyond the eighth grade. Only one-fifth had completed high school.

6/ For employed persons 18 years old and over (8).

Table 8.--Tenure of living quarters: Number of migratory farm wage workers, selected characteristics, 1965

Selected characteristics	Total	Tenure of living quarters			
		Total	Owned or being bought	Rented	No cash rent
	Thou.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total migratory workers-	466	100	48	44	8
Sex:					
Male	334	100	48	44	8
Female	132	100	46	46	8
Color:					
White	363	100	50	41	9
Nonwhite	103	100	39	55	6
Residence:					
Farm	63	100	41	18	41
Nonfarm	403	100	48	49	3
Region:					
North	134	100	49	44	7
South	188	100	45	46	9
West	144	100	50	42	8
Chief activity during year:					
Farm wage work	133	100	32	52	16
Nonfarm work	76	100	33	64	3
Other	258	100	60	34	6
Family income during year:					
Under $3,000	222	100	38	52	10
$3,000 and over	243	100	57	37	6

Numbers for subgroups are rounded without being adjusted to group totals.

The level of education is closely related to nonfarm employment, where opportunities for higher earnings and more stable employment are generally better than in farmwork. Three-fifths of the migratory workers with some high school education reported nonfarm work in 1965, while only one-third of those with a grade school education reported any nonfarm work.

Table 9.--Education: Number of farm wage workers 25 years of age and over, migratory status, 1965

Years of school completed	1965			
	Migratory		Nonmigratory	
	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	222	100	1,301	100
None to 4 years	23	10	139	11
5 to 8 years	101	45	707	54
9 to 11 years	59	27	206	16
12 or more years	39	18	249	19
Median	8.5		7.9	

CONDITIONS OF MIGRATORY WORK

Migratory workers travel because of economic necessity. For some workers, the amount of farm work available locally is limited; for others, migratory work is a way of obtaining higher wages. The latter is particularly true for farmworkers along the Southern border of the United States, where wage rates are depressed by competing Mexican labor.

Migratory farmworkers varied considerably in work routes followed, distances traveled, membership in work crews, travel with children, work outside the home State, earnings, and other ways.

Migratory work routes and area of residence

The bulk of the domestic migratory workers travel in three major routes northward from States along the southern border of the country (6). The main stream flows north and west from Texas, beginning in the spring and covering most of the North Central, Mountain, and Pacific Coast States before the season ends around December. The crops involved are fruits and vegetables, sugarbeets, and cotton. Many of the workers in this migratory stream are Americans of Mexican descent traveling with their families.

A smaller stream draws workers from Florida and other Southeastern States for the Florida citrus and winter vegetable harvest. The migrants then work northward during the spring and summer through the Atlantic Coast States, sometimes as far north as New England. Negroes constitute a large proportion of the East Coast stream.

Workers following a third major migratory route start in southern California and work northward through the Pacific Coast States. A large number of Spanish-Americans work along this route.

Although some migratory farmwork was done in almost every State, half of the total man-months of migratory worker employment in 1965 occurred in four States: California, Michigan, Texas, and Florida (9).

Many of the migratory workers do not live in the states in which they do their farmwork, but must leave their home base state when the agricultural season begins and travel to the work area.

In December 1965, four-tenths of the migratory workers were living in the geographic region extending from Texas east to the Atlantic Ocean and north through Maryland and Delaware, defined here as the South (table 10) 7/. The remaining workers were about equally distributed in the northern and western regions of the United States. This geographic distribution represents a change from that prevailing only 4 years earlier when a larger proportion (three-fifths) of the migrant workers lived in the South.

In contrast to the migratory worker, the person who did hired farmwork without temporarily changing his place of residence was more likely to live in the South and less likely to live in the West.

Interstate and intrastate migration

Some workers traveled only within their own States to do farmwork in 1964, while others lived and worked in other States during the agricultural season. Migratory workers who crossed State lines to work on farms comprised 36 percent of all migratory workers (table 11). Despite their travel, about two-fifths of both interstate and intrastate migrants did nonfarm work during the year in addition to their farmwork.

Farmwork done in home base county

During 1964, half the migrants worked on local farms before or after leaving home to work on farms in other areas. The remainder did no farmwork at all in their home base area. The two groups differed significantly in the total amount of farmwork and nonfarm work they did during the year.

On the average, workers who did not work on local farms had a relatively short farmwork season--52 days of farmwork with annual earnings of $500. Some of the workers in this group were probably children and wives in migratory households who did farmwork only on the road 8/. About half held nonfarm jobs, probably locally at seasonal, temporary, or low-paying work, and then with the beginning of the agricultural season left their home counties to pick up additional earnings at farmwork 9/. The nonfarm work year of this group was fairly long--an average of 121 days with annual earnings of about $1,200.

7/ See Explanatory Note for States included in North, South, and West.

8/ Metzler states that few wives of Spanish-American migratory families worked when at home base (14).

9/ Metzler reports that most of the nonfarm work done by Spanish-American workers of Southern Texas in 1956 was done at the home base and that few persons migrated to do nonfarm work (14).

Table 10.--Geographic area of residence: Number of farm wage workers, migratory status, 1965

Geographic area	Migratory		Nonmigratory	
	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	466	100	2,662	100
North	134	29	711	27
South	188	40	1,421	53
West	144	31	530	20

On the other hand, migratory workers who combined work on local farms with farmwork in distant areas had a relatively long farmwork year (116 days) with farm wages averaging around $900 for the year. About half of the migrants in this group did nonfarm work also, but their nonfarm employment was brief, averaging 34 days with earnings of $300.

Longest distance traveled

Some of the migratory farmworkers traveled only to an adjoining county to do farmwork, while others crossed the country. Distances traveled were sometimes considerable. In 1964, one-fifth of the workers traveled 1,000 miles or more from home; one-third migrated at least 400 miles. The more common situation involved shorter work routes. Half of all workers traveled no further than 75 miles from home to do farmwork.

Those who traveled less than 75 miles did three times as much nonfarm work as the migrants who traveled longer distances, possibly because the short-distance migrants were already employed at nonfarm jobs at their home base and turned to migratory farmwork for only brief periods. Their nonfarm earnings were about $1,100 for 110 days of nonfarm work. Migrants who traveled more than 75 miles, because of shorter periods spent at home and fewer opportunities for nonfarm employment, averaged only 38 days of nonfarm work, for which they were paid an average of $400.

Crew membership

Migratory workers often work in crews under the general supervision of a crew leader who finds the farm jobs, recruits the workers, and often provides transportation to the work area. Farm labor jobs are solicited from individual farmers, farm associations, or organizations such as sugarbeet, canning, and ginning companies which operate farms or have some form of contractual arrangement with farmers. The crew leader may contract to do a particular job, such as harvesting a given acreage of strawberries or beans. In such cases he assumes all responsibility for completing the job. He hires the laborers,

Table 11.--Longest distance traveled and related characteristics: Number of migratory farm wage workers, 1964

Distance traveled and related characteristics	Migratory workers	
	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	386	100
Interstate or intrastate migration:		
Farm wage work only in home base state	247	64
Some farm wage work in different state	139	36
Farm wage work in home base county:		
None	178	46
Less than half	35	9
Half	62	16
More than half	112	29
Residence in December 1964:		
In home base county	324	84
Not in home base county	62	16
Crew membership:		
Crew member or leader	135	35
Not crew member	251	65
Distance traveled to do farm wage work:		
Less than 75 miles	197	51
75 to 399 miles	69	18
400 to 999 miles	42	11
1,000 miles or more	77	20

Numbers for subgroups are rounded without being adjusted to group totals.

supervises their work, pays them, and keeps records. In other instances, he agrees only to supply a stated number of workers when needed and bargains with the farmer regarding the hourly or piece-rate wages to be paid the crew. A crew may be formed for work on one or more farms in one or more areas, and may stay together from a few days to a season or more.

In 1964, about one-third of the migratory workers did some of their farmwork as crew members or as crew leaders. The remainder traveled and found jobs independently through friends and relatives, former employers, the public employment office, or other methods.

Crew membership resulted in higher wage rates for the average farm worker (around $10 compared with $7 for the nonmember), thus enabling him to earn almost $1,000 at farmwork during the year, compared with less than $600 for the migratory worker who did not join a crew. Crew membership for farmwork seemed to have little relationship to the incidence of nonfarm employment among the migrants. About two-fifths of the crew members and of the migrants who found their own farm jobs were employed at nonfarm jobs at some time during the year, averaging about $1,000 at this work.

Number of farm employers during the year

Although migratory farmworkers tend to work for a greater number of employers each year than do nonmigrants, the difference is not great. In 1965, four in 10 of the migrants worked for more than one employer during the year compared with three in 10 for other farm workers (table 12).

A majority of the migrants worked for only one farm employer, and about half of this group worked less than 25 days during the year. Only a tenth worked as many as 150 days. The generally brief farmwork experience of persons with one employer suggests that a large proportion were housewives and children.

Employment by two or more farmers was associated with a longer work year; only one-fifth of the migrants in this category worked less than 25 days at all farm jobs, while three-tenths worked 150 days or more. A large proportion of the persons in this group were probably household heads.

Return to home base county by December

Most migratory workers return home after the end of the agricultural season, often turning to whatever work is available. The results of the December 1964 survey showed that at the time of the survey more than four-fifths of the migratory workers had returned to their home county. The others were presumably still working on the migratory route, had obtained permanent jobs and relocated in a new county, or were temporarily settled away from home while awaiting the start of the next agricultural season. Those still away from their home base in December had completed twice as many days of farmwork during the year and earned twice as much in farm wages as workers who had returned home.

Children under 14 in households headed by migratory workers

Children of migratory workers have fewer educational opportunities and a lower educational attainment than any other group of American children (5).

Table 12.--Farm employers: Number of farm wage workers, migratory status and duration of farm wage work, 1965

Number of farm employers and duration of farm wage work	Migratory		Nonmigratory	
	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.
One farm employer---------	271	100	1,887	100
Duration of farm wage work for this employer:				
Less than 25 days-----	130	48	845	45
25 to 149 days--------	107	40	609	32
150 days and over-----	34	12	433	23
Two or more farm employers----------	195	100	773	100
Duration of farm wage work on longest job:				
Less than 25 days-----	60	31	405	52
25 to 149 days--------	126	65	275	36
150 days and over-----	8	4	93	12
Duration of farm wage work on all jobs:				
Less than 25 days-----	35	18	253	33
25 to 149 days--------	99	51	388	50
150 days and over-----	60	31	134	17

Numbers for subgroups are rounded without being adjusted to group totals.

Taken out of school in the spring when seasonal farm labor demand begins, and often not returning home until 2 or 3 months after the opening of the fall semester, children in migratory families have inadequate time in school at their home base county (16). On the road, the children's school attendance is irregular. The parents may keep them out of school to work in the fields or to care for younger children during the day, or they may not be interested in educating their children. Local school authorities may be reluctant to enforce school attendance laws for migrant children (15).

The number of children under 14 who traveled with their parents in 1964 was determined for those migratory workers who were heads of household. Altogether, about half of the migratory heads of households had children under 14 living with them, a total of almost a quarter of a million children (table 13).

Table 13.--Children under 14 years of age: Number of migratory farm wage workers who were heads of household, number of children per household, and their travel status, 1964

Travel status of children	Migratory household heads		Children under 14 in household
	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.
Total migratory heads of household----------	144	100	--
Heads with children under 14 in household--	80	56	237
Heads with children under 14 traveling with them----------	32	22	139
Between Oct. and May--	--	--	53
Between June and Sept.	--	--	86

About 140,000 of these children, representing one-fifth of the households, traveled with the household heads on their farmwork trips.

Travel during the summer vacation period generally would not affect a child's education. However, approximately 50,000 of the children traveled with their parents during the school year, between October and May.

Spanish-American and other white household heads were more likely to have their young children accompany them on their work routes than nonwhite household heads, who often traveled without their families. Migratory workers who traveled far from their home bases or traveled out of State were more apt to take their small children with them than those who worked closer to their home bases.

Number of days worked and wages received

Despite moves from one work area to another, migratory workers are plagued by the intermittent employment characteristic of most farm wage workers. Data of the Bureau of Labor Statistics reveal that the workyear for the hired farmworker is shorter than that found among workers in almost any other occupation group; exceptions are domestic household work and certain entertainment and recreation service fields. During 1965, only 31 percent of the wage and salary workers in agriculture worked a full year (50 to 52 weeks), compared with 62 percent of the wage and salary workers in nonagricultural industries (10).

The average migratory worker was employed for only 82 days at farmwork in 1965, a work season of approximately the same duration as the farmwork season of the nonmigrant (table 14). Thus, migratory travel to work areas away

Table 14.--Employment and earnings: Number of farm wage workers, average number of days worked, average annual and daily earnings, migratory status, geographic region, and type of work, 1965

Type of work	Total workers	Average days worked in year	Average annual wage	Average daily wage
	Thou.	Days	Dol.	Dol.
Farm wage work:				
Total migratory workers	466	82	802	9.70
Total nonmigratory workers	2,662	86	623	7.20
Migratory workers residing in the North	134	67	632	9.45
Migratory workers residing in the South	188	92	703	7.70
Migratory workers residing in the West	144	83	1,089	13.20
Migratory workers who did farm but no nonfarm wage work	252	104	1,046	10.05
Farm and nonfarm wage work of migratory workers who did both:				
Farm wage work	213	57	515	8.95
Nonfarm wage work	213	100	1,222	12.15
All wage work	213	158	1,737	11.00

from home did not lengthen the work year of the migrant beyond that of other hired farmworkers. Rather, by traveling to job surplus areas, the migratory worker added to his employment record so that it averaged as long as the work year of the nonmigrant.

Substantial proportions of hired farmworkers are employed outside of agriculture during the same year they work on farms. In 1965, about half the migrants did nonfarm work. Such work may comprise the principal activity of the migratory worker during the year, or the nonfarm work may be done during days off from farmwork, in the evenings, or in between farm jobs.

The average migrant with some nonfarm employment had a longer work year than the migrant who did only farmwork. Migrants combining farm with nonfarm work, averaged 158 days of paid employment during the year (approximately 7½ months of work); about one-third of these days represented farmwork. The average migrant who did only farmwork reported 104 work days (about 5 months).

Table 15 provides a distribution of the number of days migratory workers were employed. Of those who worked exclusively on farms, 7 in 10 worked less than 150 days (about 7 months). Migratory workers who combined farmwork with nonfarm work had a longer work record, and only about 5 in 10 worked less than 150 days at all jobs.

Partly because of the brief span of their work year, annual earnings of migratory workers were very low. The migrant employed exclusively at farmwork earned about $1,000 during the year. Those who also worked outside of agriculture averaged around $1,700, of which $500 was from farmwork.

The average income of all workers in the United States was around $3,700 in 1965. This is more than double the annual wage of the highest income group of migratory workers--those employed at both farm and nonfarm jobs. In fact, the migrant workers' average wage income was lower than the wage and salary income of any other major occupation group except domestic service workers 10/.

A contributing factor to low annual earnings of migrant workers is the very low wage rate prevalent in agriculture. Daily farm wages of migrants averaged around $10 in 1965. Production workers in manufacturing earned about $20 for an 8 hour day, or twice the daily wage of the migratory worker. The average farm wage rate of migrant workers ranged from a low of about $8 per day for migrants living in the South to a high of around $13 for western residents. Migrants who held both farm and nonfarm jobs during the year averaged higher wages off the farm than on the farm, $12 and $9 a day, respectively.

Daily farm earnings of migrants in 1965 were higher than in most previous years. The improved wage situation may reflect higher payment offered to the domestic migratory worker because of the termination of the bracero program and the consequent drastic cut in the supply of foreign workers.

Comparable increases in daily earnings did not occur for the nonmigrants. Averaging roughly $7 a day in 1965, the nonmigrant earned considerably less than the migratory worker, a situation not typical of previous years.

10/ The wage and salary income of farmers was also lower than that of migratory farmworkers. However, wages and salaries accounted for only about one-third of farmers' income, the remainder being derived principally from self-employment (4).

Table 15.--Duration of farm and nonfarm wage work: Number of farm wage workers, migratory status, 1965

Duration of farm and nonfarm wage work	Migratory		Nonmigratory	
	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	466	100	2,662	100
Farm wage work:				
Less than 25 days	165	35	1,098	41
25 to 149 days	206	45	997	38
150 days and over	94	20	567	21
Average days	82		86	
Total workers who did farm but no nonfarm wage work:	252	100	1,731	100
Farm wage work:				
Less than 25 days	66	26	633	37
25 to 149 days	110	44	616	35
150 days and over	76	30	483	28
Average days	104		104	
Total workers who did both farm and nonfarm wage work:	213	100	931	100
Farm wage work:				
Less than 25 days	99	47	465	50
25 to 149 days	96	45	381	41
150 days and over	18	8	83	9
Average days	57		52	
Nonfarm wage work:				
Less than 25 days	58	27	255	27
25 to 149 days	95	45	405	44
150 days and over	60	28	268	29
Average days	100		102	
All wage work:				
Less than 25 days	14	6	95	10
25 to 149 days	96	45	405	44
150 days and over	105	49	430	46
Average days	158		154	

Numbers for subgroups are rounded without being adjusted to group totals.

Nonfarm occupations

The principal occupation of the migratory farmworker who also had some employment outside of agriculture during 1965 was usually his nonfarm job. As indicated in the preceding section, the average migratory worker with a nonfarm job was employed twice as many days off the farm. He earned about $3 a day more outside of agriculture, and his nonfarm wage for the year was double the amount he earned at farmwork.

Almost half of all migratory workers in 1965, about 200,000 persons, did nonfarm work. The majority of these workers (65 percent) held blue-collar jobs, primarily at the semi-skilled or unskilled level (table 16).

Table 16.--Type of nonfarm wage work: Number of farm workers who did both farm and nonfarm wage work, migratory status, 1965

Occupation 1/	Migratory		Nonmigratory	
	Thou.	Pct.	Thou.	Pct.
Total workers	213	100	931	100
White-collar workers	23	11	134	14
Blue-collar workers	139	65	575	62
Craftsmen	21	10	78	9
Operatives	63	29	262	28
Laborers	55	26	235	25
Service-workers	51	24	219	24
Private household	20	9	133	15
Other service	31	15	86	9

1/ Occupation refers to type of work done for longest period in 1965. Numbers for subgroups are rounded without being adjusted to group totals.

Skilled craftsmen were relatively rare among the migrants. One-fourth of the migratory workers held service jobs in restaurants, hotels, laundries, and other such firms. Very few migrants (one-tenth) did white-collar work, which reflects their low level of formal education.

The types of nonfarm jobs held by nonmigratory farmworkers were very similar to those of migrants. Thus, hired farmworkers are limited to types of nonfarm jobs, such as many service and blue-collar jobs, which require little education or manual skill. And they are infrequently employed in white-collar fields which call for greater skills in reading and writing.

Migratory workers whose nonfarm employment was at white-collar jobs spent a very small part of their work year on the farm (about one-fifth) On the other hand, workers whose nonfarm employment was as unskilled laborers did about equal amounts of farm and nonfarm work during the year. Daily earnings of migratory workers at either farm or nonfarm work were highest among white-collar workers and skilled craftsmen. Wages were lowest for service workers, among whom were the lowest paid group of all, the private household workers.

Family income

Poverty is prevalent among the Nation's hired farmworkers. According to the Bureau of the Census, median family income of household heads who were farm laborers was $2,600 in 1965 (4). This figure was lower than that for household heads in any other occupation group except domestic household service. By comparison, all heads in the United States had a median family income of $6,900, more than double that of the farm laborer.

Migratory workers who headed a household had a family income level comparable to those of all heads who did farm wage work. In 1965, their family income averaged $2,700 (table 17). However, poverty did not affect all groups of migratory workers equally. Families in which either the household heads or the wives did migratory farmwork were in the weakest financial situation because their low earnings, particularly those of the heads, provided the bulk of the family income. Wives doing migratory farmwork generally lived in households whose heads also did migratory farmwork, with its attendant low earnings. Family incomes of less than $3,000 for the year were characteristic of three-fifths of household heads and wives who did farm wage work on the road.

In contrast, some migratory workers lived in relatively high income families. The least deprived financially were children 14 through 17 years of age. Some of these teenagers were traveling and working with their families, but included also were those who left their home base without their parents to do migratory farmwork, possibly during the summer vacation. Only about one-third of the teenagers reported family incomes below $3,000. Three-tenths had family incomes averaging $7,500 and over. In sharp contrast, only 6 percent of the migratory household heads reported such high family incomes.

Table 17.--Family income: Number of migratory farm wage workers, relationship to household head, 1965

Family income during year	Total	House-hold head	Wife of head 1/	Other relative under 18 1/	Other member of household 1/
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.
Number of workers-	466	180	59	112	114
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total----------	100	100	100	100	100
Under $2,000----	25	30	32	19	20
$2,000-2,999	23	27	27	15	22
$3,000-4,999	20	21	20	11	27
$5,000-7,499----	18	16	17	26	16
$7,500 and over-	14	6	4	29	15
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Median income	3,183	2,735	2,656	5,431	3,581

1/ The head of household to whom these workers are related may be, but is not necessarily, a farm wage worker. Some of the teenagers, for example, come from families in which the head of household does not do farm wage work.
Numbers for subgroups are rounded without being adjusted to group totals.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Survey of the hired farm working force

Estimates concerning migratory farmworkers in this report are based on a survey of the hired farm working force conducted annually for the Economic Research Service by the Bureau of the Census through supplementary questions included in the regular monthly survey of the population known as the Current Population Survey (CPS). Respondents in the regular survey who reported doing farmwork for cash wages at any time during the year were asked additional questions on number of days of farm wage work; amount of cash wages received for farmwork; number of days of nonfarm wage work, if any, and earnings for that work; migratory status; chief activity during the year; and other matters.

All of the information pertaining to migratory workers obtained from the December 1964 and December 1965 surveys was tabulated and analyzed separately for this report. This is a companion publication to The Hired Farm Working Force of 1965, A Statistical Report, Agricultural Economic Report 98, which presents the basic findings on employment and earnings for all hired farmworkers.

Population coverage

At the time of the 1964 and 1965 surveys, the CPS sample included about 40,000 housing units and other living quarters selected at random from 357 sample areas comprising 701 counties and independent cities representing every State and the District of Columbia. 11/ Some 35,000 of these units were occupied by households which were interviewed; the remaining units were vacant, converted to nonresidential use, or for some other reason were not included in the interview program.

The data in this report relate to persons 14 years of age and over who did farm wage work in 1964 or 1965 and who were in the civilian noninstitutional population at the time of the December surveys, and to members of the households of these workers. Excluded were persons who did farm wage work but died, entered the Armed Forces, or were otherwise removed from the civilian noninstitutional population before the survey. Omitted also were foreign nationals who did farm wage work in this country at some time during 1964 or 1965 but returned to their homes before the surveys.

11/ For a thorough explanation of the CPS, see (2), or the more recent and briefer account in (3).

Definitions

Age.--The age of the person at his last birthday.

Color.--This term refers to the white and nonwhite groups in the population. The nonwhite group includes Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and other nonwhite races.

Household.--A household includes all of the persons who occupy a room, a group of rooms, an apartment, or a house, which constitutes separate living quarters. That is, the persons occupying the quarters do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure, and there is either direct access from the outside or through a common hall, or a kitchen or cooking equipment for the exclusive use of the occupants.

The household head is usually the person regarded as such by members of the group. Women are not classified as heads if their husbands are residing in the household at the time of the survey. Other members of a household can include the wife of the head, members of their immediate family, other relatives of the head, and nonrelatives residing in the household. A lodger and his wife are treated as a separate family but are included as members of the household. In determining the size of a household, all persons living in the household are counted, not only those 14 years of age and over.

Education.--A program of formal instruction in the regular school system leading to an elementary school certificate, a high school diploma, or a college, university, or professional school degree. Instruction may be in graded public, private, and parochial elementary, junior high, or high schools, or in colleges, universities, or professional schools. Instruction in any other type of educational institution is counted only if the credits obtained are transferable to a school within the regular school system.

Farm or nonfarm residence.--The place in which the worker lived at the time of the survey. Persons were classified as living on farms (farm resident) if they lived on rural places of 10 acres or more, from which agricultural products worth $50 or more were sold in the reporting year. Also included as farm residents were those living on rural places of less than 10 acres with sales of at least $250 worth of agricultural products in the reporting year. Nonfarm resident workers lived in urban places, rural towns, villages, or in the open country on places that did not meet the criteria for farm classification.

Geographic area of residence.--States included in each of the geographic regions referred to in this report are as follows: North--Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas. South--Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas. West--Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, Alaska.

Chief activity.--Information on the chief activity of farm wage workers during the year was derived from the question, "What was. . . doing most of 1964, (or 1965), working, keeping house, going to school, or something else?" If working was reported as the chief activity, the kind of work the person did most of the year was determined. Farm wage work was recorded if the person spent most of his working time doing farm wage work. Other farmwork was recorded if the person spent most of his working time operating his own farm (as a tenant, owner, or sharecropper), doing work for pay in kind, or doing unpaid work on a family farm. Nonfarmwork was recorded if a person spent most of his working time in a nonfarm field, such as manufacturing, trade, construction, or domestic service, in his own business or profession, without pay in a family business, or for pay (or payment in kind).

If the person did not report working as his chief activity, information was obtained on what he was doing most of the year. Looking for work (unemployed) was recorded for a person who spent most of his time without employment, but actively looking for a job. Keeping house was recorded for persons who spent most of their time doing their own housework. Going to school was recorded for persons who spent most of their time attending school. The category other was recorded for persons who spent most of their time at some activity other than those named above.

Migratory status.--Farm wage workers were classified as migratory during the survey year if they left their homes temporarily (at least overnight) to do farmwork for cash wages in another county within the same State or in another State, with the expectation of returning home at the conclusion of their period of farm wage work. Persons who had no usual place of residence and did farm wage work during the year in two or more counties, either in the same or in different States, were also classified as migratory farm wage workers.

Classified as nonmigratory workers were persons who commuted daily from their homes across the county or State line to do farm wage work in the other county and returned home each night. Also classified as nonmigratory were persons who did farm wage work in their own county for part of a year and then made a permanent move to another county, even though they may have done farm wage work in the second county.

Farm wage worker.--Any person in the population covered by the sample who did farmwork for cash wages or salary at any time of the year for all or only part of a day.

Farmwork for cash wages or salary.--Types of farm activity included are (1) work done on any farm for cash wages in connection with the production, harvesting, threshing, preparation for market, or delivery to market of agricultural products; (2) work done off the farm for a farmer by his hired farmworker, such as trips to town to buy feed, seeds, and fertilizer, or to handle other matters involved in running the farm business; (3) such work as repairs of farm buildings or machinery performed by a farm wage worker when done along with the type of work specified in (1) and (2); and (4) managing a farm or enterprise for cash salary.

Not included as farmwork for cash wages or salary are (1) work performed by farm operators on their own farms or "exchange" work between farmers when no money is paid for this work; (2) work done exclusively for "payment in kind" such as room or board; (3) work done without pay on a family farm by a member of the farm operator's family (a small regular cash allowance is not considered farm wages); (4) nonfarmwork performed on a farm, such as the building of a farm structure by a carpenter, the drilling of a well by a well driller, the hauling of agricultural products to market by a commercial trucker, or domestic service in the home of a farmer; and (5) custom work such as spraying, threshing, and combining, when a person is paid a combined rate for the use of his equipment and labor.

Days of farm or nonfarm wage work.--Days on which any farm or nonfarm wage work was reported. The work may have been for all or only part of a day.

Earnings from farmwork or nonfarm work.--Cash wages or salary received for farmwork or for nonfarmwork. Earnings do not include the value of perquisites received in connection with farmwork or the value of fringe benefits received for nonfarm work.

Farm and nonfarm occupations.--Occupation groups used are defined as in the 1960 Census of Population, except that farm managers are included with farm laborers and foreman in the survey of the Hired Farm Working Force while in the Census of Population farm managers are grouped with farmers.

Total family income.--The money income received by all income recipients in the family. It includes cash wages or salary, net income from self-employment, social security, interest, dividends, income from estates or trusts, net rental income, unemployment compensation, public assistance or welfare payments, and pensions, veterans' payments, annuities, alimony, etc. It does not include money received from the sale of property, bank withdrawals, money borrowed, tax refunds, gifts, lump-sum inheritances, or insurance payments. The term "family" refers to persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together.

Reliability of the estimates

Estimating procedure.--The estimating procedure used in these surveys involved inflating weighted sample results for persons in the 35,000 interviewed sample households to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, color, and sex. These independent estimates were based on statistics from the 1960 Census of Population; statistics on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration; and statistics on strength of the Armed Forces. The inflated records for the approximately 1,800 hired farmworkers in the sample were selected and tabulated for this report.

Variability.--Since the estimates are based on sample data, they are subject to sampling variability. They may differ somewhat from the results that would have been obtained from another sample, or from a complete census using the same schedules, instructions, and interviewers. The results are also subject to errors of response and reporting.

The standard error of an estimate is primarily a measure of sampling variability, that is, of the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than a whole population is surveyed. The standard error, as calculated for this report, also partially measures the effect of response and enumeration errors, but does not measure any systematic biases in the data. The chances are 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference would be less than twice the standard error.

The estimates of standard errors shown in this report are approximations for the 357 areas sampled. To derive standard errors which would be applicable to a wide variety of items and which could be prepared at moderate cost, a number of approximations were required. As a result, the tables of standard errors provide an indication of the order of magnitude of the standard errors rather than the precise standard error for any specific item.

Tables 18 and 19 show the standard errors of the estimated number and percentages of persons who did farm wage work. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends on the size of the percentage and the size of the total on which the percentage is based. Generally, estimated percentages are relatively more reliable than the corresponding absolute estimates of the numerator of the percentage, particularly if the percentage is 50 percent or more.

Tables 20, 21, and 22 show the standard errors of average annual number of days of farm wage work, average annual earnings from this work, and average daily farm wages. Standard errors of average number of days, annual earnings, and daily earnings from nonfarm wage work would probably be somewhat higher than the standard errors of comparable estimates for farm wage work.

Illustration of the use of tables of standard errors.--Table 7 shows that there were 206,000 migratory farmworkers who rented their living quarters in December 1965. Table 18 shows the standard error of 206,000 to be about 31,000. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that a complete census would have shown a figure different from the sample result by less than 31,000. Chances are 95 out of 100 that the difference would have been less than 62,000. Of these 206,000 migratory workers, 160,000, or 77.7 percent, lived in a house or apartment. Table 19 shows the standard error of 77.7 percent with a base of 206,000 to be approximately 7.0 percent. Consequently, the chances are 68 out of 100 that a complete census count would have disclosed the figure to be between 70.7 and 84.7 percent, and 95 out of 100 that the figure would have been between 63.7 and 91.7 percent.

Table 18.--Standard errors of estimated numbers of persons who did farm wage work, CPS supplement

(68 chances out of 100)

Size of estimate	Standard error
25,000	11,000
50,000	15,000
100,000	22,000
250,000	35,000
500,000	52,000
1,000,000	80,000
2,500,000	150,000

Table 19.--Standard errors of percentages of persons who did farm wage work, CPS supplement

(68 chances out of 100)

Percentage	Base of percentage in thousands						
	50	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
2 or 98	4.2	3.0	1.9	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.4
5 or 95	6.6	4.7	2.9	2.1	1.5	.9	.7
10 or 90	9.1	6.4	4.1	2.9	2.0	1.3	.9
15 or 85	10.8	7.6	4.8	3.4	2.4	1.5	1.1
20 or 80	12.1	8.5	5.4	3.8	2.7	1.7	1.2
25 or 75	13.1	9.3	5.9	4.1	2.9	1.9	1.3
35 or 65	14.4	10.2	6.4	4.6	3.2	2.0	1.4
50	15.1	10.7	6.8	4.8	3.4	2.1	1.5

Table 20.--Standard errors of estimated average annual number of days of farm wage work, CPS Supplement

(68 chances out of 100)

Average number of days worked per year per person	Base of average in thousands	
	250	500
Days	Standard error in days	
50	11	8
100	15	10
200	18	13

Table 21.--Standard errors of estimated average annual earnings from farm wage work, CPS Supplement

(68 chances out of 100)

Average annual earnings per person	Base of average in thousands	
	250	500
Dol.	Standard error in dollars	
250	75	50
500	115	80
750	150	105
1000	180	130

Table 22.--Standard errors of estimated average daily earnings from farm wage work, CPS Supplement

(68 chances out of 100)

Average daily earnings per person	Base of average in thousands	
	250	500
Dol.	Standard error in dollars	
4	.70	.50
7	.95	.55
10	1.10	.80

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